

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 stand canceled.

Claims 16-20 are pending. No amendment has been made to the claims, and no new matter is entered.

Claims 16, 17, 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.K. Patent Application GB 2079178 in view of Clausen et al. U.S. Patent 5,753,120. Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments. Consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

GB '178 shows a filter container unit 1 mounted to carburetor 10 by bolts 16 in Fig. 7, and by bolts 114 in Fig. 17. Filter container unit 1 includes an outer casing 2 having an upper cover 8 resting on annular filter element 5. In the embodiment of Figs. 1-11, as noted at page 1, lines 100-105:

...Said outer casing 2, comprising the lower base wall 3, the lowered annular wall 4, the cylindrical side wall 6, the four columns 13 and the upper flat wall 12, is constructed in a single piece, conveniently of plastics by means of moulding....

The noted lower flat wall 12 of upper cover 8 has two bores 15 through which bolts 16 extend for mounting to carburetor 10. As seen in Fig. 9, bolt hole or bore 15 is adjacent column 13. As noted at the top of page 2, upper cover 8 at inner perimetral rim 9 is fixed onto casing 2 by means of four screws 33 housed in threaded bores 34, Fig. 3, provided in columns 13.

In the embodiment of Figs. 16 and 17 of GB '178, lowered circular central part 110 of upper cover 8 has bores 113 receiving bolts 114 for mounting to carburetor 10.

Clausen et al. '120 discloses a filter unit 10 including a housing having a container 12 with a base 32 having a central cylindrical post 34 extending upwardly through the filter element to the top of the container 12 where it is received within a downwardly extending annular sleeve 38 formed in cover 14, Col. 3, lines 59-65. Post 34 includes an axially extend central bore 47 receiving a fastening device or bolt 50 extending upwardly therethrough and through sleeve 38 and through opening 51 in cover 14. Bolt 50 includes an enlarged head 54 engaging an annular shoulder 55 preferably formed at or about the midpoint of post 34, Col. 4, line 15. A nut 57 is tightened on distal end 55 of bolt 50 to retain cover 14 on container 12, Col. 4, line 22.

In Clausen et al. '120, filter media 70 is disposed between upper and lower end caps 72 and 74, Col. 5, line 5. Upper end cap 72 includes a flat annular base 76, Col. 5, line 8, which has a plurality of slots or apertures 90, Fig. 5, Col. 5, line 23, which slots 90 provide a flow path from upper fluid cavity 92, Fig. 3, in cover 14 to the region bounding the outer peripheral surface of filter media 70, which fluid cavity 92 receives fluid from inlet port 16 on the upstream side of the filter media, Col. 5, lines 29-33. Base 76 of upper end cap 72 includes an annular flange 100 extending upwardly to axially overlap annular flange 110 formed on the lower surface of cover 14 for providing a fluid tight seal therebetween at O-ring 104, Col. 5, lines 34-42. Upper end cap 72 further includes a cylinder 112 extending downwardly within the central portion of the filter element, which cylinder 112 steps down to annular sleeve 114. A plurality of openings 118, Fig. 5, are provided at the junction of cylinder 112 and sleeve 114, Col. 5, line 57, which openings 118 provide a flow path between cavity 120 in upper cover 14 and the radially inner surface region of filter media 70, which cavity 120 opens to fluid outlet port 18, Col. 5, lines 63-66. As noted at Col. 6, lines 3-9, the flow path is from inlet port 16 through cavity 92 through apertures 90 in base 76 to the outer peripheral region of filter media 70 then radially inwardly through the filter media 70 to the inner peripheral region, then through openings 118 in cylinder 112 to cavity 120 and then to outlet port 18. Lower end cap

74 includes a cylinder 130 extending upwardly within the central region of the filter element and overlapping a portion of downwardly extending cylinder 112 to create an internal cylinder defining a cylindrical cavity 133 for receiving post 34, Col. 6, lines 35-39.

In applying Clausen et al. '120 to GB '178, the Examiner notes that GB '178 does not teach the telescopically overlapping sleeves, however Clausen teaches a bottom end cap 12 including an integrally formed sleeve telescopically received within a sleeve 38 integrally formed with the upper end cap 14 in sealing relation by a sealing bead including O-ring 46 and a flange depending from and integral with the bottom sleeve, and that the upper sleeve includes a stop. The Examiner notes that it is considered obvious to have the sleeve configuration of Clausen et al. '120 for each of the columns 13 of GB '178 because Clausen et al. '120 teaches the benefits of being simple to design, easy to assemble, and provides ready and easy accessibility to a spent filter element, and that upon modification of the columns of GB '178 to be telescopically overlapping, the columns depending from each end cap would necessarily be less than the axial height of the filter.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider that even if columns 13 of GB '178 were modified to provide a pair of telescopically overlapping sleeves, the result still would not yield the defined subject matter of claim 16 requiring that the hollow sub-interior (46) of the column (42) receive a respective post (50). Furthermore, such post would not extend from the base (54) as required by claim 16. Post 34 in Clausen et al. '120 extends upwardly from base 32 of container 12, which is not the base or carburetor 10 of GB '178. This same deficiency is also present when applying Clausen et al. '120 to Fig. 17 of GB '178. Post 34 of Clausen et al. '120 extends from the filter housing unit or container 12, not from a base or carburetor 10 of GB '178 to which the filter unit is to be mounted. Applying bolt 50 of Clausen et al. '120 as the defined post of claim 16 likewise is deficient because such post or bolt 50 only extends to the midpoint of post 34, Clausen et al. '120, Col. 4, line 15, and hence would not mount the filter unit to a base such as carburetor 10 of GB '178.

Appln. No. 10/629,433
Amendment dated October 25, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of September 7, 2006

To modify Clausen et al. '120 to extend post bolt 50 axially downwardly to enable mounting to a base or carburetor 10 of GB '178 would be contrary to the purpose, teachings and motivation of Clausen et al. '120 because of the noted desirable upward extension of post 34 and the requisite sealing arrangement at 138 between cylinder 112 at sleeve 114 and cylinder 130 and the noted flow path through the filter as described above. Neither of the telescopic sliding sleeve arrangements of Clausen et al. '120, namely at sleeve 38 nor at sleeve 114, is thus combinable with GB '178 nor satisfies the defined claim limitations.

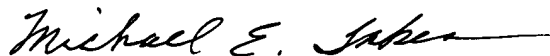
Reconsideration and allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and are believed are allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed are allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 16-20, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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